

Informational Document MI-Access Online Grades 3-8 Fall 2012 Pilot

Background:

The Michigan Department of Education, Bureau of Assessment and Accountability (BAA), is conducting a pilot to explore the benefits of using an online answer sheet rather than the traditional paper answer document for the three MI-Access assessments: Participation (P), Supported Independence (SI), and Functional Independence (FI).

The online answer document would allow direct transfer of teacher scores into an online system from the traditional tear-out sheets or test booklets completed by the students, eliminating the need to transfer answers by hand to a paper/pencil answer document and then wait for separate scanning activities to be completed prior to the scoring process. The online answer sheet is designed for use by the assessment administrators (both FI administrators and P/SI Primary and Shadow administrator), not by the students themselves, **so administration of the MI-Access assessments will not be impacted in any way.**

For the MI-Access Online Pilot, Questar will use the iTester system as the interface for the online answer sheet for entry of student responses. As the iTester system is currently in use within Michigan for the ELPA online program and was also piloted in Spring 2012 with MI-Access Grade 11 population, the integration of the data from the MI-Access answer sheets with the paper-based performance data will be easily and efficiently managed.

MI-Access Pilot Project Phases:

Phase 1: Fall 2011 Pilot

The Fall 2011 pilot was targeted for specific teacher focus groups within the state. In partnership with the BAA, Questar conducted a number of focus groups throughout Michigan. Each focus group contained representatives from elementary, middle, and high schools.

Phase 2: Spring 2012 Limited Operational Trial (Grade 11 Only)

Phase 2 launched the online answer document to a sample of administrators in Grade 11 (all three populations). As described above, the administration process with the students was not impacted during Phase 2. The only change was that administrators transferred responses/ratings into the online answer document rather than a paper one. Post-administration surveys were provided to Grade 11 administrators to gather feedback and suggestions for improvement after the close the Spring 2012 window. Overall, the online pilot was a success. The majority of the online system users reported that the administration was less cumbersome for administrators and the system was user-friendly.

Phase 3: Fall 2012 Limited Operational Trial (Grades 3-8): *Here's where we are!!!*

Based on the positive feedback received from participants in the Spring 2012 trial, BAA has decided to move forward with gathering additional information by piloting the online answer documents in Grades 3-8.

MI-Access Fall 2012 Pilot Questions and Answers:

When is the Grades 3-8 Fall Online Pilot taking place?

It is taking place at the same time as the regular Fall 2012 assessment window: **October 1—November 9.**

Will students interact with the Online Pilot?

No, this is NOT a student-facing online assessment. Only administrators will interact with the online answer

document. The way in which students are administered MI-Access assessments will NOT change.

If I fill out an online answer document, do I also have to complete a paper-based bubble answer document?

No, you only need to complete and submit an electronic answer document—NOT BOTH. This is very important as the intent is to make response/rating transferal easier.

Which assessments and grades are included in the MI-Access Online Pilot?

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Content Area</u>
Participation	3—8	ELA/Mathematics
Participation	5 & 8	Science
Supported Independence	3—8	ELA/Mathematics
Supported Independence	5 & 8	Science
Functional Independence	3—8	Mathematics
Functional Independence	5 & 8	Science

Which assessments and grades are NOT included in the MI-Access Online Pilot?

The only assessment not included in the pilot is Functional Independence Accessing Print/Expressing Ideas.

Will more information be provided about the Online Pilot?

Yes, the BAA and Questar are creating resource materials for participants, such as an Online Manual and WebEx training sessions (these sessions will be scheduled for September—exact dates and times are to be determined). The MI-Access Call Center may also be contacted at 877-560-8378 option 4.

What are the technical requirements my district/schools must meet to participate in the Fall 2012 Online administration?

To be able to use iTester, your district's/school's technology must meet the following minimum specifications.

Minimum System Requirements

Hardware Requirements	Windows	Apple / Macintosh
Operating System	Windows 2000 or higher	OS 10.4.X or higher
Java Version	Java Version 1.5	Java Version 1.5
Processor	Pentium III 500 MHz or higher	G4 500 MHz or higher
Memory	512 MB or higher	512 MB or higher
Screen Resolution	1024 x 768	1024 x 768
Internet Connection	1.5 mbps or higher	1.5 mbps or higher